


Heavy rains follow Bill's path through Austin area

LOCAL By [Samantha Matsumoto](#) and [Bradley Saacks](#) - American-Statesman Staff



Posted: 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Highlights

 Some street flooding hit the Austin area Wednesday from storm's remnants.

 Coastal regions and North Texas hit hardest by tropical storm.

A trailing band of what was left of Tropical Depression Bill caused dangerous flooding in Austin along Shoal and Waller creeks Wednesday afternoon, and Williamson County residents were warned to seek higher ground at one point as the storm poured over the area.

Flash flood warnings issued by the National Weather Service were canceled for both counties late Wednesday evening, but not before showers dropped heavy rains in several areas across the region.

The weather service reported 7 inches of rain in 2½ hours in eastern Travis County between Austin and Manor on Wednesday afternoon. The Lower Colorado River Authority recorded rainfall totals of 2.71 inches in Gilleland Creek at Manor, 2.33 inches at Walnut Creek, 1.53 inches in Pflugerville and up to 1.65 inches in some parts of Central Austin.

Williamson County saw up to 2 inches of rain fall in the area along County Road 239, north of Texas 195, and another 1 to 2 inches were expected, according to the weather service.

In Austin, barricades were briefly raised at 24th and San Jacinto streets due to flooding in the area, University of Texas police said. Flooding also caused

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traffic delays in Central Austin, including at a low water crossing at Guadalupe Street near West 45th Street.



Heather Curiel, from left, Brianna Hernandez, 9, and Jeff Hopkins look at a flooded recycling business on FM 969 at Sendero ... [Read More](#)

Capital Metro rail service between the downtown and MLK stations was shut down due to flooding on the tracks, and service on other parts of the rail route was delayed by 15 to 20 minutes.

At 7 p.m., several roads remained flooded in Northeast Austin, city officials said, with road closures reported near Walter E. Long Lake, along FM 969 near Blue Buff Road, along FM

973 between Manor and Texas 130, and on Daffan Lane. Closures also were reported at the intersection of U.S. 290 and Berkman Drive as well as at Cameron Road and Corona Drive.

Despite the heavy rain in the afternoon, the Travis County sheriff's office and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services were having a quiet night as of press time.



Gov. Greg Abbott comes into the room to talk with reporters after a briefing about weather conditions from Tropical Storm Bill ... [Read More](#)

Sheriff's office spokesman Roger Wade said that, though the evening had turned relatively uneventful, deputies were monitoring low water crossings for any flooding.

The Bill-related problems in Central Texas came as what was once a tropical storm — but had since been downgraded to a tropical depression — was centered

over Oklahoma.

On Tuesday night, officials in Travis, Hays, Bastrop and Williamson counties had braced for the worst as the tropical storm worked its way up the state from the Gulf of Mexico. By the time it had passed well to the east of Austin, it seemed Central Texas had dodged the worst.



"A tropical system is one of the phenomena with weather that can't be anticipated to where it exactly is going to go," Steve Smart, a National



Maddie Wallace, left, 15, and her sister Delaney Wallace, 17, have a picnic and work on their tans on the Great ... [Read More](#)

Weather Service meteorologist, said early Wednesday afternoon. “In this particular case, a lot of rainfall fell on the coastal region and the coastal plains.”

In the storm’s initial push through the state, Houston averaged about 2½ inches of rain, with some nearby coastal regions getting more than 5 inches, according to the Harris County Flood Warning System.

The Dallas-Fort Worth region’s rainfall totals also were higher than Austin’s, and Waco received 4 inches of rain since Tuesday morning.



Sydney Burnett, 19, gets caught in rain while walking along Guadalupe Street on Wednesday.

“Even though the state is facing challenges, it looks like we have been able to avoid the worst,” Gov. Greg Abbott said earlier Wednesday. “It’s my understanding that, as of this moment, there have been no lives lost, which I think is the most important thing.”

In Austin, city officials said there were no water rescues or injuries reported in Austin or Travis County due to the storm Tuesday night.

Travis, Hays and Williamson counties had all been expected to get up to 6 inches of rain as the storm passed over on Tuesday.

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After being rocked by floods a couple of weeks ago, Hays County had nothing to report as far as Bill-related damages and injuries, said Kharley Smith, the county’s emergency management coordinator. The story was

similar in Bastrop County as the rain resulted in minor damages and no injuries, according to Mike Fisher, that

county's emergency management coordinator.

"If it had been 50 miles, 100 miles west, we would have received the several inches of rain we were expecting," said Smart, the meteorologist.

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